



## **2022 African Statistics Day (ASD)**

### **Concept Note**

## Context and Rationale

Over the past decade, the data ecosystem at national, continental, and international level has evolved and remains dynamic. Official statistics have been at the center of debates of the Assembly of Heads of States and Governments, including at the UN General Assembly and High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), in an endeavor to highlight progress towards common development agendas and areas of global concern. The African Statistics System (ASS) has remained robust to address ongoing initiatives and the development and harmonization of statistics in Africa. Key frameworks underpinning strengthening capacity of national statistical systems in Africa are the African Charter on Statistics (ACS) and the second Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA 2). These, together with the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the Cape Town Global Action Plan for sustainable development data create an enabling environment for the enactment of national statistical laws and national strategies for development of statistics.

However, there are emerging development areas such as green growth, digital economy, and human rights where availability and accessibility of data and statistical information is not optimal. The data ecosystem is also evolving with new data users, data producers and data sources (i.e., big data and citizen generated data). There are also new trends in the organization and management of statistics, particularly in the areas of data innovation, modernization and transformation, and the focus on partnerships for statistics. The Covid-19 pandemic has also had a negative impact on data collection activities, with a reduction in funding for reported statistics in some cases. It is therefore crucial that the African statistical system respond appropriately to these challenges.

Several fora have been established to enhance debate, exchange of ideas and good practices on the development and harmonization of statistics in Africa. These include the Committee of Directors General of national statistics offices (CoDGs), the African Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD) and the Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa). In order to intensify advocacy and the development of statistics in Africa, African Statistics Day was adopted in May 1990 at the UNECA Conference of African Ministers responsible for Economic Planning and Development. It is an annual celebration commemorated on 18 November to raise awareness of the important role statistics play in all aspects of social and economic life.

Each year, the celebration revolves around raising awareness amongst decision-makers, development partners, data producers and users, academia, researchers, and the public on the importance of statistics on a specific theme. This year's ASD theme is *“Strengthening data system by modernizing the production and use of agricultural statistics with a view of informing policies to improve resilience in agriculture, nutrition, and food security on the African Continent”* It is aligned with the African Union 2022 theme *“Strengthening Resilience in Nutrition and Food Security on the African Continent: Strengthening Agro-Food Systems, Health and Social Protection Systems for the Acceleration of Human, Social and Economic Capital Development”*

A series of events will be organized to celebrate the 2022 ASD and foster debate around the theme of the day as well as the use of statistics in planning and monitoring and evaluation in Africa.

## Objectives

The objective of the celebration of Africa Statistics Day for the year is to exchange views on the theme of the day as well as to discuss progress in the implementation of the Second Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA 2). The specific objectives are:

- Raise awareness on the role of statistics in development, and in monitoring progress towards achievement of agenda 2030 on SDGs, AU agenda 2063 and other regional and national agendas.
- Discuss capacity building initiatives for the development, improvement, and harmonization of official statistics in Africa.
- Discuss the theme of the day, and in particular the conducting of agricultural censuses, surveys and adoption of modern tools and methodologies for analyzing food security.
- Recognize concerted efforts towards raising the profile of statistics at continental level and appraise the African Statistics System (ASS) on strides made in not only mainstreaming evidence-based decision taking but also advocating for increased domestic resources for financing statistics.

## Meeting Format

The occasion will take place in the form of an online (virtual) event broadcast via zoom, for the African and international audience. Register for the webinar [HERE](#)

## Organizers

The celebration of African Statistics Day 2022 at the continental level is organized by United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations.

## Event Date

The continental event of Africa Statistics Day will be celebrated on **16 November 2022** virtually from **14:00 to 16:30 (GMT+3)**. National statistics offices are encouraged to schedule the date(s) of country-specific celebrations, including the official Africa Statistics Day on **18 November 2022**.

## **Target Audience**

This event will bring together all Directors General of National Statistics Offices of AU Member States and their representatives. Other stakeholders targeted include representatives of national, sub-regional, regional, and international organizations; regional economic communities; civil society and Non-Governmental Organizations; the academia, research, and training institutions; and the private sector.

## **Working Language(s)**

The event will be held simultaneously in English and French, with interpretation into all ECA/AU languages provided.

## **Documentation**

Prior to the meeting, the event organizers will endeavor to send the concept note and draft agenda to participants via email.

For more information on the event, contact

- Ms. Angela Kiconco, Statistician, ACS-SDDIOS, ECA, Email: [angela.kiconco@un.org](mailto:angela.kiconco@un.org)  
Tel.: +251-97-6674646.

## Continental level African Statistics Day Celebrations

*“Strengthening data system by modernizing the production and use of agricultural statistics with a view of informing policies to improve resilience in agriculture, nutrition, and food security on the African Continent”*

**Date:** 16 November 2022

**Time:** 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM Addis Ababa time (2 hours)

**Link for meeting registration:** [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_4yjRA2hHTt2yNP9pf-Z1Gg](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4yjRA2hHTt2yNP9pf-Z1Gg)

| Time              | Agenda Item   |
|-------------------|---|
| 2:00 PM – 2:20 PM | <p><b>Introduction and welcome remarks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ECA – Director ACS [7 mins]</li> <li>• AUC – Head Statistics Department [7 mins]</li> <li>• AfDB – Head Statistics Department [7 mins]</li> </ul>  |
| 2:20 PM – 2:35 PM | <p><b>Official Opening</b><br/> <b>Keynote Speaker:</b><br/>                     H.E. Ms. Paula Ingabire, Minister of Information and Communications Technology of Rwanda [10 mins]</p> <p><b>Discussion of Keynote Address:</b> Professor Ben Kiregyera [7 mins]</p>   |
| 2:35 PM – 3:30PM  | <p><b>Presentations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country experience sharing on production and dissemination of Agricultural Statistics – <b>Director General of Ghana statistical Services [10 mins]</b></li> <li>• Policy maker’s perspective on the capacity of the Agricultural Statistics system to provide statistics for decision making – <b>Director of Agricultural Statistics Benin [10 mins]</b></li> <li>• Results of phases I and II of the Global Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Statistics programme on the production and use of agricultural statistics – <b>ENSAE, Ecole nationale de la Statistique et de l'Analyse économique Pierre NDIAYE - Sénégal [10 mins]</b></li> <li>• Monitoring Food and Agriculture related indicators for SDGs A2030 and Agenda 2063 – <b>FAO [10 mins]</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b></p> |
| 3:30 PM – 4:20 PM | <p><b>Discussion Questions/Topics - Possible questions for Panellists</b></p> <p>[Moderator to ask questions related to topics on presentations made]</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b></p>  |
| 4:20 PM – 4:30 PM | <p><b>Next steps and Concluding Remarks:</b></p> <p>Mr. Oliver Chinganya, Director, UNECA – ACS</p>   |